

**BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

**December 11–12 2007, Meeting**

**San Diego, California**

**Minutes for Tuesday, December 11**

Justice Carlos R. Moreno, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at the San Diego Sheraton Hotel & Marina in San Diego, California.

**Commission Members Present:** Hon. Carlos R. Moreno (chair), Ms. Mary L. Ault, Hon. Richard Blake, Mr. Curtis L. Child, Ms. Miryam J. Choca, Mr. Joseph W. Cotchett, Jr., Mr. Michael S. Cunningham, Hon. Kathryn Doi Todd, Dr. Jill Duerr Berrick, Hon. Leonard P. Edwards (Ret.), Ms. Deborah Escobedo, Mr. Robert E. Friend, Hon. Richard D. Huffman, Hon. Susan D. Huguenor, Ms. Miriam A. Krinsky, Ms. Amy Lemley, Hon. Bill Maze, Ms. Donna C. Myrow, Hon. Michael Nash, Mr. David Neilsen, Ms. Diane Nunn, Mr. John O'Toole, Mr. Ken Patterson, Mr. Jonathan Pearson, Ms. Linda Penner, Mr. Alan Slater, Mr. Joseph L. Spaeth, Hon. Dean Stout, and Ms. Jacqueline Wong.

**Commission Members Not Present:** Mr. Michael D. Antonovich, Hon. Karen Bass, Mr. Lawrence B. Bolton, Mr. Raul A. Escatel, Hon. Terry B. Friedman, Ms. Teri Kook, Mr. Will Lightbourne, Mr. Derek Peake, Mr. Anthony Pico, Ms. Patricia S. Ploehn, Ms. Maria D. Robles, Mr. Gary C. Seiser, and Hon. Darrell Steinberg.

**Commission and Administrative Office of the Courts Staff Present:** Mr. Christopher Wu (lead), Ms. Myrna Caamic, Ms. Tracy Kenny, Ms. Megan Lafrenz, Mr. David Meyers, Ms. Marymichael Miatovich, Mr. Lee D. Morhar, Mr. Gaidi Nkruma, Ms. Chantal Sampogna, Ms. Sonya Tafoya, Mr. Don Will, and Ms. Leah Wilson.

**Others Present:** Ms. Carol Emig, Mr. Ken Borelli, Mr. Randy Capps, Ms. Susan Diedrich, Ms. Joanne Edgar, Ms. Kris Jackson, Ms. Yali Lincroft, Ms. Becky Maze, Ms. Barbara Needell, and Ms. Jennifer Rodriguez.

**Item 1            The California Disproportionality Project**

*Ms. Miryam Choca, Commissioner*

Ms. Miryam Choca gave an introduction to the Disproportionality Project, including its development and background. The purpose of this project is to address issues concerning the disproportionate number of children of color in the child welfare system. The project goals are to develop and support an active learning collaborative environment and to reduce and ultimately eliminate disparities in the child welfare system. Teams will be created on both the county and state level. She pointed out the important role the courts have in seeing that these issues are addressed.

**Item 2                    Immigration and Limited English Proficiency Issues**  
*Ms. Deborah Escobedo, Commissioner*

Ms. Deborah Escobedo presented on the issues and needs facing immigrant and LEP children in the child welfare system. She talked about the exclusion of immigrant children from schools, stating that children should not be penalized because of their parent's actions. She then talked about the importance of having knowledge of children's language abilities. She sees a need for data on foster youth prior to preschool.

Ms. Yali Lincroft then introduced the panelists, who spoke about the following topics: research, immigration law, and language and cultural issues for immigrant children and families in child welfare. She also provided the commission with a set of recommendations for both the courts and child welfare agencies to help alleviate these problems.

**Item 3                    Opening Remarks**  
*Justice Carlos R. Moreno, Chair*  
*Mr. Christopher Wu, Executive Director*

Justice Carlos R. Moreno welcomed commissioners and participants to the ninth meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. Minutes of the October meeting were approved. He gave brief opening remarks and an introduction to the day's agenda.

Mr. Christopher Wu gave an overview of the commission's actions during the upcoming months. These include the release of the draft recommendations and the process for collecting public comments. He informed commissioners that the next meeting, to be held in June, will conclude this period and give them a final chance to go over the recommendations along with the public comments before the Judicial Council meeting. The recommendations will be presented to the Judicial Council in August, and a report will follow in the fall.

**Item 4                    Recommendation Discussion**  
*Ms. Carol Emig, Child Trends*

Ms. Carol Emig gave a brief background on her work for the PEW Commission. She then laid out the format for the afternoon's discussion, stating that today would focus on recommendations one and two and on Wednesday, the discussion would move on the remaining two recommendations. The discussion ended at 5:00 p.m.

The commissioners were invited to convene again at 6:30 p.m. for further discussion and a casual dinner. The dinner meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

## **BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

**December 11–12 2007, Meeting**

**San Diego, California**

**Minutes for Wednesday, December 12**

Justice Moreno, chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 12, 2007, at the San Diego Sheraton Hotel & Marina in San Diego, California.

**Commission Members Present:** Hon. Carlos R. Moreno (chair), Ms. Mary L. Ault, Dr. Jill Duerr Berrick, Mr. Curtis L. Child, Mr. Richard Blake, Mr. Lawrence B. Bolton, Ms. Miryam J. Choca, Mr. Joseph W. Cotchett, Jr., Mr. Michael S. Cunningham, Hon. Kathryn Doi Todd, Hon. Leonard P. Edwards (Ret.), Ms. Deborah Escobedo, Mr. Robert E. Friend, Hon. Richard D. Huffman, Hon. Susan D. Huguenor, Hon. Terry B. Friedman, Ms. Teri Kook, Ms. Miriam A. Krinsky, Ms. Amy Lemley, Hon. Bill Maze, Ms. Donna C. Myrow, Hon. Michael Nash, Mr. David Neilsen, Ms. Diane Nunn, Mr. John O'Toole, Mr. Ken Patterson, Mr. Derek Peake, Mr. Jonathan Pearson, Ms. Linda Penner, Mr. Gary C. Seiser, Mr. Alan Slater, Mr. Joseph L. Spaeth, Hon. Dean Stout, and Ms. Jacqueline Wong.

**Commission Members Not Present:** Mr. Michael D. Antonovich, Hon. Karen Bass, Mr. Raul A. Escatel, Mr. Will Lightbourne, Mr. Anthony Pico, Ms. Patricia S. Ploehn, Ms. Maria D. Robles, and Hon. Darrell Steinberg.

**Commission and Administrative Office of the Courts Staff Present:** Mr. Christopher Wu (lead), Ms. Myrna Caamic, Ms. Tracy Kenny, Ms. Megan Lafrenz, Mr. David Meyers, Ms. Marymichael Miatovich, Mr. Lee D. Morhar, Mr. Gaidi Nkruma, Ms. Chantal Sampogna, Ms. Sonya Tafoya, Mr. Don Will, and Ms. Leah Wilson.

**Others Present:** Ms. Carol Emig, Ms. Susan Diedrich, Ms. Joanne Edgar, and Ms. Becky Maze.

### **Item 1 Recommendation Discussion**

*Ms. Carol Emig, Child Trends*

Ms. Carol Emig welcomed everyone and thanked them for a very successful first day discussion. She then moved directly into discussing the remaining recommendations.

### **Item 2 Public Outreach**

*Ms. Miriam Krinsky, Commissioner*

Ms. Miriam Krinsky directed the commission to a set of important materials and resources provided in their meeting binders. She mentioned the importance of engaging the public and seeking all possible outreach opportunities during the public comment period. She asked that any commissioner interested in participating during this most crucial time contact a BRC staff member.

**Item 3            Closing Remarks**

*Justice Carlos R. Moreno, Chair*

Justice Moreno thanked the commissioners for their dedication in working on their recommendations and thanked the staff for all their hard work as well. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.